

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

ERICK FERNANDO VELA,)	4:18CV3046
)	
Petitioner,)	JOINT
v.)	STATUS REPORT
)	
ROB JEFFREYS, Director,)	
Nebraska Department of Correctional)	
Services,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

The parties submit this joint status report in accordance with this Court's prior text order (Filing No. 47):

1. On May 18, 2018, this Court granted Petitioner's motion to stay proceedings, pending the resolution of his state court postconviction proceedings. (Filing No. 9).
2. The Petitioner's state court postconviction proceedings have not been resolved and are pending in the District Court of Madison County, Nebraska.
3. Undersigned counsel for the parties anticipate there will be progression of the state court proceedings with the understanding that the state court records of the Petitioner's capital case are voluminous and have necessarily involved considerable time to gather, review and organize.
4. In addition, there remain legal and factual matters that must first be resolved in the District Court of Madison County, Nebraska.
5. The parties agree that the stay in this case should not be lifted at this time, consistent with this Court's order (Filing No. 9), because the state court proceedings have not been resolved.

6. The Respondent has no objection to continuing the stay and abeyance of this case.

7. In view of the outstanding matters pending before the state court, the parties suggest that this Court allow six months before requiring another status report.

Erick Vela, Petitioner

By: s/Jerry M. Hug
Hug & Jacobs LLC
209 S 19th St, Suite 323
Omaha NE 68102
jerry@hugandjacobs.com

and

By: s/Susanne Bales
TN Bar No. 017868
Assistant Federal Community Defender

s/Mary M. Kincaid
AZ Bar No. 030837
Assistant Federal Community Defender

Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, Inc
800 S. Gay Street, Suite 2400
Knoxville TN 37929
Telephone: (865) 637-7979
Fax: (865) 637-7999
Email: Susanne_Bales@fd.org

Counsel for Mr. Vela

Rob Jeffreys, Respondent,

By: Mike Hilgers, 24483
Nebraska Attorney General

By: s/Stacy M. Foust, # 23636
Assistant Attorney General
2115 State Capitol Building
Lincoln, NE 68509-8920
Stacy.Foust@nebraska.gov

By: s/Michael B. Guinan
Assistant Attorney General
2115 State Capitol Building
Lincoln, NE 68509-8920
Michael.Guinan@nebraska.gov

Counsel for Respondent

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 12, 2025, I electronically filed the foregoing JOINT STATUS REPORT, with the Clerk of the District Court using the CM/ECF system. Notice of this filing was sent by operation of the Court's electronic filing system to all parties indicated on the electronic filing receipt. Parties may access this filing through the Court's electronic filing system.

/s/Susanne Bales